

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS)
Combined Quarterly Reports:
July 1 – Dec. 31, 2011

DISASTER

The ICVS is the primary agency responsible for disaster volunteer coordination. Working in conjunction with Homeland Security Emergency Management and the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC), the ICVS provides services to local communities impacted by disaster. These services include disaster volunteer coordinators, volunteer reception center training, and coordination of national service resources to meet community needs following a disaster event. With the extensive network of Volunteer Centers and National Service programs, disaster volunteer management assistance is more readily available to help communities in need. During federal declarations, the ICVS is tasked through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to provide disaster volunteer coordination assistance. Below is a synopsis of the summer 2011 disaster declarations and ICVS response.

The ICVS continued disaster response and recovery missions in several counties in western Iowa following the Missouri Flooding event. The following missions were ongoing from June – August 2011:

- **Sioux City:** The Center for Siouxland agency in Sioux City, IA, is a Volunteer Generation Fund grantee of the ICVS and had recently started developing the Siouxland Volunteer Center (SVC). The SVC was in its infancy when the controlled releases of water on the Missouri River began to increase and impact the Sioux City community. The Woodbury County EOC put the newly formed SVC in charge of disaster volunteer coordination. Over 3400 volunteers were managed serving nearly 7000 hours sandbagging and managing the volunteer reception center. A total of 242,450 sandbags were filled and transported to various areas of the city to protect homes and critical community infrastructure.
- **Hamburg:** The Dept. of Natural Resources Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps program was deployed to Hamburg to provide assistance to the Iowa National Guard for levee patrol. A team of 10 AmeriCorps members on rotation of one week intervals patrolled the secondary levee around the town of Hamburg. While patrolling the members were responsible for checking the integrity of the levee against plastic issues, sand boils, animal holes, cracks and any other defects. Members also assisted in repair of the levee when needed. This was the longest deployment of AmeriCorps members for the Missouri River flooding event. Members provided levee patrol during the months of July and August.
- **Mills County:** The Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps program provided assistance to Mills County Public Health. AmeriCorps members helped staff a call center that was established to provide individuals and families impacted by the disaster to get help and those wishing to volunteer to provide help. Also members provided several community outreach efforts that included: creating and conducting “Camp No-lacka-wawa” for children of families affected by the flood, conducting property damage and unmet needs assessments, and reaching out through various community events to provide information and resources to flood impacted families.

2011 Quarterly Reports #3

AMERICORPS

2010-2011 AmeriCorps State Program Data Released – In the 2010-2011 AmeriCorps grant year, Iowa's nineteen AmeriCorps State programs engaged 668 members in providing more than 513,000 hours of service. AmeriCorps members provided services to more than 16,000 disadvantaged children and youth, mentored 6000 young people and provided disaster mitigation and response services to more than 46,000 Iowans. Programs met or exceeded 83% of their performance measure targets. In addition to their own service, AmeriCorps members recruited 35,227 community volunteers who provided 202,433 hours of service, completing 2,452 projects in Iowa.

2011-2012 AmeriCorps Supplemental Funding Announced – The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service was awarded supplemental AmeriCorps funding for several of its programs for the 2011-2012 program year. Supplemental funding comes from other states that do not award all of the AmeriCorps dollars allocated to them. In Iowa, AmeriCorps funding requests exceed the amount of available funding and so our programs are able to make use of the dollars unexpended in other states.

Final 2011-2012 AmeriCorps State Program Funding Levels

Program	Funding Award	Members (Est.)	Education Award Value
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley	\$ 130,000	14	\$58,164
Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa, Inc.	\$ 216,468	25	\$102,675
City of Dubuque	\$ 210,587	48	\$92,241
Graceland University	\$ 145,612	24	\$61,994
Habitat for Humanity of Iowa, Inc.	\$ 274,576	31	\$127,151
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources - Keepers of the Land	\$ 506,727	99	\$269,617
United Way of East Central Iowa	\$ 133,345	10	\$55,500
Conservation Corps Iowa	\$ -	13	\$72,150
Iowa Campus Compact	\$ 22,651	130	\$157,121
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence	\$ 110,050	10	\$55,500
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa	\$ 140,250	11	\$61,050
City of Davenport	\$ 135,000	34	\$55,944
Community Corrections Improvement Association	\$ 385,224	51	\$160,784
Des Moines Public Schools	\$ 105,631	26	\$43,623
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources - Veterans program	\$ 290,000	20	\$111,000
Iowa Legal Aid	\$ 107,200	9	\$44,400
Iowa Public Health Association	\$ 135,628	10	\$55,500
Iowa State Univ. Extension	\$ 367,360	47	\$154,634
Univ. of Northern Iowa (CEEE)	\$ 366,954	28	\$155,400
Totals	\$ 3,783,263	640	\$ 1,894,446

2011 Quarterly Reports #3

ICVS AmeriCorps VISTA Project Continues Strong Results – The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service AmeriCorps VISTA project welcomed a new VISTA Leader, Carlie Toland, in September to enhance the service experience, provide professional development opportunities, and support our current team of fourteen AmeriCorps VISTA members serving in the areas of environmental sustainability, youth development, and disaster/volunteer management. She partnered with two other area VISTA Leaders to develop and offer a monthly webinar series on topics ranging from Grant Writing, Sustainability, and Navigating the VISTA Lifestyle through Budgeting. She is also working on a professional development plan for members that includes identifying additional trainings in the community that members can access for little or no cost.

Recent accomplishments from the team as a whole include the following data. From July to September of 2011, the VISTA team members developed more than \$3,600 in cash and in-kind resources and they recruited 425 volunteers who served more than 1900 hours. Cassandra Creasy, a VISTA serving through the United Way of Johnson County (UWJC), gives this example of how she is helping to expand the UWJC's reach into rural Washington County to provide increased volunteer opportunities there:

"I dedicated a full day of service to one agency in Washington County whom was very receptive of our presence in the area and building this partnership. In our initial meeting she informed us of the dilemma the agency was experiencing in a lack of staff to effectively gather volunteer forms and give call backs to arrange for commitment of times or further info on what they would like to do. I spent the day collecting, organizing, and getting in contact with potential volunteers for the agency. I offered some suggestions on more manageable system to handle the high influx of volunteer apps. I created a document of email addresses, age groups, volunteer specific needs, etc. in order for the executive director (whom almost single-handedly handles the agency) to go back and refer to. I felt as though we made tremendous progress on the project and to hear/see the amount of gratitude the agency director had for the help made it beyond worth it."

Iowa Green Corps – ICVS is expanding Green Corps programming, with a focus on energy efficiency through home weatherizations, presentations, educational programs and community meetings. Federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service are matched with local funds and a grant from the Iowa Power Fund to support AmeriCorps State programs, VISTA members and overall coordination and oversight of the following components that began the new program year this fall:

- Green Iowa AmeriCorps is a program operating primarily in northeast and eastern Iowa, by the Center for Energy and Environmental Education at the University of Northern Iowa, with an emphasis on providing services to low-income and elderly homeowners.
- The Iowa Green Veterans AmeriCorps program is operated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, with plans to recruit military veterans and their family members to serve other veterans, their families and the families of active-duty service members through home weatherization and energy awareness outreach.
- AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members serve to build the capacity of communities to reduce energy use and costs, as a means of fighting poverty. A total of three members were placed at the following sites: Center for Energy and Environmental Education at UNI, Sustainable Dubuque, and Trees Forever.

2011 Quarterly Reports #3

AmeriCorps State Disability Inclusion

Inclusion Mini Grants Review – Round 4

Five proposals were received for the fourth deadline in August. Selected for funding were the following:

- ICVS VISTAs with Passageway: ICVS summer VISTAs partnering with Passageway to complete a service project that will assemble hygiene kits to donate to shelters. Project location is Des Moines.
- ICVS programs with VSA Iowa: VSA Iowa will complete a community art project with the participants of the Serve Iowa Mini Conference (includes AmeriCorps and Senior Corps program representatives). Project location is Coralville.
- Building Direction for Families (Prevent Child Abuse Iowa site) with Quality Choices and the City of Arlington. The project will contain two phases. The first phase is painting, furnishing and organization a new Kid's Center in town. The second phase will occur in spring 2012.
- Dubuque National Service with Hills and Dales and Operation New View. Iowa Campus Compact AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Partners in Learning, Dubuque RSVP and Dubuque Foster Grandparents are the national service partners in this project. They will complete home visits for socialization and slight home work in teams on Make a Difference Day 2011.

4th Annual Serve Iowa: Empower Your Future Through Volunteerism – 67 participants attended this mini-conference at the Coralville Public Library in September. Participants with and without disabilities attended to learn about opportunities to become involved in and support inclusive volunteerism and national service. Training topics included: engaging Veterans as volunteers; AmeriCorps opportunities, benefits and public assistance; and, traditional volunteering for people with disabilities. A volunteer agency fair and service project with VSA Iowa were also included in the events of the day.

3rd quarter ICVS Accessibility Team meeting – 5 members of the Accessibility Team (A-Team) met at ICVS headquarters in Des Moines for its quarterly meeting in September. An additional 3 members joined the meeting via webinar. The meeting included a discussion on the topics to be included in the 2012 Inclusion Plan, the upcoming NSIP conference, status reports on past quarter events, partner presentations and engagement opportunities.

National Service and Inclusion Leadership Institute – four AmeriCorps State program staff and one Accessibility Team member attended the annual NSIP conference held in Washington D.C. in December. The scholars were selected through a competitive process and signed an MOU with ICVS to complete a few requirements including training, outreach, advocacy, mentoring and project development. Scholars are required to consult with the ICVS Inclusion Coordinator throughout the calendar year to report progress.

PROMOTION AND RECOGNITION

Governor's Volunteer Awards – the final 2011 regional recognition ceremony was held in Storm Lake in July. In all, more than 700 of these awards were presented by Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds in 2011.

Days of Service – 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. The year 2011 marked the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in Washington DC, New York City and Pennsylvania. To commemorate this event and remember those that lost their lives and those that served, and continue serving our country, more than a dozen projects were held across the state. These projects ranged from creating cards for deployed service men and women to speaking engagements from those who were directly impacted or had served in some capacity during those many months helping individuals and communities recover.

Iowa Places 2nd in First Annual "Coaches Mentoring Challenge" – For the first time, the Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP), an initiative of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, teamed up with University of Iowa Coach Kirk Ferentz, Iowa State University Coach Paul Rhoads, and 78 local football coaches to participate in a "Coaches Mentoring Challenge" with University of Nebraska Coach Bo Pelini, University of Kansas Coach Turner Gill, and Kansas State University Coach Bill Snyder. Capitalizing upon the friendly spirit of competition, the "Coaches Mentoring Challenge" sought to gauge which state, Iowa, Nebraska, or Kansas, could recruit the most new mentors between August 1, 2011 and November 22, 2011.

In Iowa, it was estimated that more than 3,000 young people were currently accepted into local mentoring programs, but were still awaiting mentors. Therefore, the "Coaches Mentoring Challenge" sought to lower the "mentoring gap" in Iowa by recruiting more adults to volunteer as mentors. To recruit new mentors, the Iowa Mentoring Partnership joined forces with Governor Branstad's office to encourage state employees to volunteer as mentors. Additionally, the IMP hosted a mentor recruitment event at the Iowa State University v. University of Kansas football game in Ames, Iowa and filmed game-day promotional videos and radio spots with Coach Ferentz and Coach Rhoads that were played throughout the duration of the 2011 football season.

Upon completion of the 2011 "Coaches Mentoring Challenge," the state of Kansas, led by Kansas Mentors, won the challenge by recruiting 5,269 potential new mentors. Iowa came in a strong second by recruiting 3,345 potential new mentors and the state of Nebraska, led by TeamMates of Nebraska, rounded out the challenge with 1,282 potential new mentors.

Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame – Being inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame is the most prestigious state-level honor volunteers can receive; the people selected are those who have forever changed their community, the state, the nation, or the world with their volunteer service and action. Any Iowa individual, family, group, organization/nonprofit, or business/corporation actively engaged in voluntary service benefiting the community, state, nation, or world may be nominated. Selection of inductees is based on merit and is not necessarily limited to one honoree per category.

2011 Quarterly Reports #3

A selection may not be made in every category each year. Nearly 30 nominations were received in November and just five individuals and two groups were selected for this honor in December. Inductees will be honored during a special ceremony in the Capitol in February.

TRAINING

New Program Director Training – Any AmeriCorps State Program Director or planning grant staff that had not yet participated in a New Program Director Training was required to attend this one-day training at ICVS headquarters in August. The ICVS PDAT officer and 4 Program Officers collaborated to facilitate training topics of reporting systems and program management for 7 trainees.

AmeriCorps State Program Director Retreat – 23 new and returning AmeriCorps State Program Directors attended a two day pre-program year training in Des Moines at the beginning of August. The ICVS PDAT officer, 4 Program Officers and a contracted trainer collaborated to facilitate training designing training, organizational communication, conflict resolution, site monitoring, project management and more. Participants were presented with the annually updated AmeriCorps State resource and policy manual in hard and electronic copy.

AmeriCorps Financial Reporting Requirements & System Webinar – In September, this webinar was conducted to introduce Program Directors to the new reporting and timekeeping system, lowagrants.gov. 22 Program Directors and financial staff attended the session and a recording of the session was sent to all that were unable to participate in the live session.

Volunteer Generation Fund – in September, nine grantees of the Iowa Volunteer Generation Fund gathered in Des Moines for an intensive 2-day training on leadership development. As the primary volunteer management experts in their communities across Iowa these grantees learned how to develop stronger partnerships, build capacity of non profits and empower other volunteer managers to create a stronger volunteer management profession across the state. These volunteer managers are working on some of our state's most critical needs and using volunteers to accomplish their goals. In addition, training was provided via webinar on Volunteer Solutions – the state's online volunteer matching portal.

Iowa Nonprofit Summit – This annual two-day conference was held at the Scheman Center in Ames in November. More than 500 nonprofit and volunteer management professionals attended. Specific trainings, panels, and workshops were offered for the enhancement of volunteer program and nonprofit management and enhancing the impact of service activities in communities. In addition, an on-site service project was completed by AmeriCorps members to replenish the children's and family libraries of Blank Children's Hospital, and cards and gift bags were created for the patients at Blank.

2011 Quarterly Reports #3

AmeriCorps Grant Consultation – Selected 2012-2013 applicants for AmeriCorps State funding were offered the opportunity for one on one consultation and a grant workday in December. The consultants selected via competitive process were Jeannie Lovell of Luther College and Jill Smith of LT&J Consulting. Each consultant was assigned a portfolio of programs to provide their recommendations to and assist them with questions relating to the revisions of their grant proposal.

PDAT 2012 funds rescinded by CNCS – In December, Program, Development and Training (PDAT) funding, anticipated at an annual amount of \$70,000+ was rescinded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. PDAT activities will be significantly reduced moving forward, as only carry-over funds from 2011 are likely to be available for usage until spent.

OUTREACH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Work Incentive Seminar Events – ICVS representatives attended events in LeMars and Davenport in August, and Cedar Rapids in October to speak to attendees about AmeriCorps membership and how their benefits may or may not be impacted by the income earned as an AmeriCorps member.

Recruitment and Volunteer Fairs – In October, ICVS VISTAs attended events at ISU in Ames, Saydel High School in Des Moines, and Simpson College in Indianola to speak to college students about AmeriCorps opportunities and education award benefits.

RESULTS

Iowa Remains at the Top of the Charts for Volunteering – In August, it was announced that for the second year in a row, Iowa achieved the second-highest volunteer rate in the country with 37.9 percent of Iowans devoting time to help others in 2010. That surpasses the 2008 rank of fifth, according to the recent *Volunteering in America* report released by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Iowans devoted a total of 93.4 million hours to volunteering in 2010 and provided more than \$2 billion in services to Iowa. Additionally, Iowa ranked first in volunteer retention rate, meaning that more volunteers are staying in their volunteer opportunity. Good volunteer management is one of the biggest factors driving the volunteer retention rate and is a testament to the strength of Iowa charities and communities that utilize volunteers. Since Governor Branstad created the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service in 1994, Iowa has made persistent efforts to build and support a local infrastructure to support volunteerism and strong volunteer management. Nearly 150,000 more Iowans volunteer today than they did in 1989 prior to the creation of the commission.

The spirit of Iowa's volunteerism is exemplified in individual cities as well. Iowa has more cities (four) than any other state in the top 20 of overall rankings.

- Iowa City has the third-highest volunteer rate nationally for cities, with over 50 percent of residents volunteering

2011 Quarterly Reports #3

- Des Moines has the seventh-highest volunteer rate nationally for cities, with 40 percent of residents volunteering
- Cedar Falls/Waterloo has the 11th highest rate at 37.6 percent
- Cedar Rapids has the 14th highest rate for midsized cities (16th overall) at 35.6 percent

Additional highlights from the report include:

- "Generation X" Iowans and "Older" Iowans both ranked second for their age demographics, all other age demographics ranked in the top 10
- The percentage of Iowans mentoring youth has increased from 17th to fourth in the nation over the last few years which has been a priority of the commission

For more information on volunteering in Iowa or to view the complete *Volunteering in America* report, go to www.volunteeriowa.org.